



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/035,778	12/31/2001	Patrick L. Ferguson	P01-3860	3911

20790 7590 11/28/2003

AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, L.L.P.
300 WEST 6TH STREET
SUITE 2100
AUSTIN, TX 78701

EXAMINER

MAI, RIJUE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2182

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
10/035,778

Applicant(s)
Patrick et al.

Examiner
Rijue Mai

Art Unit
2182



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on Dec 31, 2001 is/are a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

Art Unit: 2182

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-18 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas et al. US pat. 6356959 (hereinafter Thomas) in view of Ahern et al. US pat. 6388658 (hereinafter Archer).

Art Unit: 2182

As per claims 1, 9 and 16, Thomas teaches a computer interface extension configuration (abstract) comprising: a host having a motherboard with a first connector that allows motherboard signals to be shared internal to the host, the motherboard also having at least a second connector separate from the first connector that supports communications with the host (see col 4, lines 58-67, col 6, lines 20-26, Figs 1 & 2); an extension card disposed within the host and being electrically coupled to the motherboard of the host via at least the first connector and the second connector, the card having a graphics controller that interfaces with the second connector independent from communications that occur on the first connector (see col 5, lines 14-36, col 6, lines 5-10, col 7, lines 48-64) and an extension coupled to a plurality of user interface devices and that at least receives data transmission from the host to thereby provide the data transmission to one or more of the plurality of user interface devices (see col 5, lines 57-63).

Thomas does not specifically teach that an extension “transmitter and receiver” cards which is being extensibly connected with each other as claimed.

Ahern teaches a high-end KVM switching system wherein control signals from the corresponding and adjacent digital card in switch module are supplied to the transmitter card and the receiver switch module consists of a receiver card stacked on top of the digital card (see col 11, lines 18-21, col 12, lines 11-24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to allow the Thomas’s system to make use of Ahern’s teachings and determine to provide a connection fabric (network connection) comprising a transmitter card and a receiver card

Art Unit: 2182

accordingly, because it ensures to include the capability to allow the computer system to recognize that add-in card is present under the system control, and to allow the transmission of data to be selected dynamically, thereby enabling optimization and enumeration of such add-in card.

Referring to claims 2-8, 10-15, 17-18, Thomas further teaches the interface extension wherein the card comprising a peripheral connection interface graphics controller that communicates with the motherboard independent of communications on the first computer (see col 5, lines 14-36); the plurality of user interface devices comprise a keyboard, a mouse, a video monitor, a speaker, a serial link, a USB link, a power button, a microphone (see col 5, line 29, line 49-53); the card disposed within the host is electrically coupled to the first connector of the motherboard of the host via a ribbon cable connector disposed between the motherboard and the extension card (see Fig 3); is electrically coupled to the second connector of the motherboard of the host via one of a PCI, PCI-X or AGP interface with the extension card (see col 6, lines 33-45).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Art Unit: 2182

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Rijue Mai** whose telephone number is (703) 308-7098

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM, and alternate Friday Eastern Time. The examiner can also be E-mailed at **Mai.Rijue@uspto.gov**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Jeffrey Gaffin, can be reached on (703) 308-3301.

6. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 746-7239, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

Art Unit: 2182

(703) 746-7240, (for informal or draft communications, please label


“PROPOSED” or “DRAFT”)

EXAMINER

Rijue Mai

Art Unit 2182

November 19, 2003



Rehana Perveen
Art Unit 2182
Primary Patent Examiner